Punjab Civil Judge (Mains) 2019

ENGLISH · compulsory paper

Time: Three Hours · Maximum Marks: 200

Instructions for candidates:

1. Attempt ALL the questions and in the same order in which they appear in the question paper.
2. Marks for individual questions are indicated against each question.
3. Use of high lighter or marking in the answer sheet is not allowed.
4. No extra answer sheet will be provided.

Question 1

Write an essay on any one of the following subjects in about 1000–1100 words: [100 marks]

1. Privatization – its justification and impact.
2. Is India moving towards dictatorship?
3. Media trials: Do we need to draw a line?
4. Rural Development – what are the possibilities?

Question 2

Make a précis of following passage in about 1/3rd of the original, giving it an apt title: [20 marks]

North India's air pollution woes are just one manifestation of farm/water policies gone horribly wrong. Lurking in the core of the crisis is an outdated food security doctrine that has combined with unrestrained populism to wreak havoc. What began as a buffer stock of rice and what has morphed into a pan-India sprawl of a few crops supported by government procurement agencies and minimum support prices. In July, total wheat and rice stock with Centre was 74.3 million tonnes, a whopping 33.1 million tonnes in excess of relevant stocking norms. The anomaly of government heavily subsidizing farmers to produce excess rice at great economic and environmental cost, which then rots in FCI godowns or gets exported, must be fixed.

Free power and open-ended procurement has meant that farmers pump out groundwater endlessly to grow paddy. Producing 1 kg of rice in Punjab requires over 5,000 litres of water and with an annual paddy output of 12 million tons, this amounts to shipping out nearly 45 trillion litres of groundwater. Responding to this rapacious exploitation Punjab and Haryana enacted a Preservation of Subsoil Water Act in 2009, banning paddy transplanting until June 15 to preserve groundwater during summer.

This pushed the harvest further backwards October – November which, accompanied by the use of combine harvesters that leave paddy stalks standing and the hurry to prepare the ground for the next rabi crop in November, prompts farmers to burn stubble. As is evident, one myopic policy after another has created an environmental and public health disaster. Turning Punjab and Haryana farmers away from paddy cultivation solves all the problems at one stroke but withdrawing subsidies on power, procurement processes and MSPs, requires immense political will. This critical moment demands bipartisanship and statesmanship. Will the political class stand up as one to be counted, or continue with policies that starve us of water and breathable air?

Question 3

Make sentences of the following pairs of words distinguishing their meanings: [20 marks]

1. Sympathy – Empathy
2. Equable – Equitable
3. Abdicate – Abrogate
4. Exalt – Exult
5. Bereaved – Bereft
6. Lesson – Liaison
7. Flare – Flair
8. Mustard – Mustered
9. Rebuff – Rebut
10. Ordnance – Ordinance

Question 4

Give the meaning of the following words/idioms and make meaningful sentences: [20 marks]

1. a moot point
2. An Iron Hand
3. a parting shot
4. A vicious circle
5. food for thought
6. A passing fancy
7. be hard pressed
8. The bottom line
9. a devil's advocate
10. The green-eyed monster

Question 5

Correct the following sentences: [20 marks]

1. During the flight she sat on the chair behind me.
2. The floods made a lot of damage.
3. It will be more funny to go by bus.
4. She is one year younger than I.
5. I am including a photograph of myself.
6. He was judged and sentenced to life imprisonment.
7. The amount of crime have increased.
8. She arrived the station just in time to catch the train.
9. She asked to me to tell her a story.
10. He is sleeping for two hours.

Question 6

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it: [20 marks]

An old society undergoing massive changes is bound to encounter obstacles and setbacks. The turmoil that India is currently undergoing has some positive aspects: its people are demanding changes and pointing towards the new goals that society should set for itself. The country's achievements in food self-sufficiency, science and technology, and industrialization cannot be lightly dismissed. It is good that problems of environmental degradation, ecological damage and imbalances, alternative source of energy are now being debated with a degree of passion the country had not experienced before. This shows a living concern for the future. The most hopeful signals are that the common citizens of the country are no longer willing to be taken for granted, or taken for a ride. This makes India an exciting country to live in and in which to share society's new concerns.

Contemporary Indian society is undergoing a trauma of change and is confronting a series of dilemmas and paradoxes. They hurt, but they are unavoidable. It is necessary for society to view the problems of all categories of its people with empathy, find solutions to the problems of economic disparities and injustice, launch a programme of enlarging mass consciousness, promote a true sense of history as against subservience to myth, and initiate processes of participatory decision-making. While some aspects of tradition will survive because of their vitality and usefulness, many of the scaly prejudices of the past will have to be eradicated and structures of exploitation and tyranny demolished. The road ahead is long, the process may be painful, but each one of us every citizen of India has a stake in the future.

1. What are the positive aspects of the present turmoil in India?
2. What are the new problems facing us?
3. What does the author praise the Indian citizens for?
4. What is necessary for a society to grow?
5. Which traditional aspects need to be abolished?